

European Communities

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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DOCUMENT 1-1094/82

ORAL QUESTIONS

pursuant to Rule 44 of the Rules of Procedure

for QUESTION TIME on 11 and 12 January 1983



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QUESTIONS TO THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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1. Question by Mr KALOYANNIS (H-449/82)

Subject: Failure to use the Community merchant marine for the transportation of material for the construction of the Russian gas pipeline

I have received information that all the various material originating in the Member States of the Community and destined for the construction of the Russian gas pipeline is being transported in Russian vessels. Can the Council confirm whether this is true? If so, why did it not take care to prevent this state of affairs and what action does it intend taking to ensure that from now on these materials are shipped by Community vessels since the Community merchant marine has for some time been going through a serious crisis which is adding considerably to the number of unemployed in the Community and is increasing the number of Community ships laid up? As the Greek fleet accounts for 26% of the Community's merchant marine, the prejudice it suffers is particularly great.

2. Question by Mr GALLAND (H-401/82)

Subject: Four new Japans

In view of the industrial development in Asia of four new Japans - South Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan - which are currently preparing for a transition from labour-intensive industries to high technology, has the Commission implemented the measures needed to ensure that Europe has a concerted plan to respond to competition from these countries?

3. Question by Mr MAHER (H-422/82)

Subject: Breakdown of C.A.P. finance

What proportion of the finance used in the C.A.P. for the support of European Agriculture is going directly to farmers in the Member States and what proportion is being used under other headings, including administration, at European level and at the level of the Member States?

4. Question by Mr MOORHOUSE (H-511/82)

Subject : Transport policy

In the light of Parliament's action against the Council under Article 175, does the Commission regard transport as a priority area for the allocation of staff and other resources?

5. Question by Mrs EWING (H-518/82)

Subject : The CFP and flags of convenience

In view of the fact that more than 60 Spanish fishing vessels have gained access to fishing grounds and quotas in Irish and UK waters by registering in those countries, will the Commission state what measures are envisaged in the proposed C.F.P. to prevent vessels from other countries (including vessels from other Member States) from gaining access to national and regional fishing grounds and quotas by flying flags of convenience?

6. Question by Mrs BOSERUP (H-535/82)

Subject: The Commission's participation in EPC

Can the Commission explain what specific implications the statement that 'in future the Commission will be fully involved in political cooperation at all levels' (Commission of the European Communities: Fifteenth General Report on the Activities of the European Communities in 1981, p. 286) has had in terms of Commission participation in EPC?

7. Question by Sir PETER VANNECK (H-546/82)

Subject: Common Customs Tariff on Aeronautical Products (1)

Are military aircraft manufactured in the Community placed at a competitive disadvantage, relative to similar aircraft of US design or manufacture, in those member states which invoke Article 223 of the EEC Treaty as a straightforward entitlement to import products originating in the United States of America intended for use in the construction, maintenance and repair of military aircraft?

(1) Council regulation (EEC)1535/82; O.J. L 175 of 21.6.1982 p. 1

8. Question by Mr MOUCHEL (H-555/82)

Subject: Renegotiation of textile agreements

Exactly what stage has been reached in the current renegotiation under the MFA of multiannual bilateral textile agreements between the Community and low-cost supplier countries, what are the countries with which negotiations have not yet been completed, and what difficulties has the Commission encountered in the negotiations?

9. Question by Mr PAULHAN (H-557/82)

Subject: Selling price of French cigarettes in Germany

Is the Commission aware that a packet of the French cigarettes 'Gauloises filtre longues' which sells for FF 4.90 in France costs DM 3.80 in Germany, three times the French price net of tax? Does it feel that this practice is commensurate with the economic objective of a single internal market in the Community, and is it in a position to react to this form of masked protectionism by a Member State?

10. Question by Mrs ANGLADE (H-558/82)

Subject: 'Acid raid' pollution

Is the Commission aware of a report by the US Congress on pollution by sulphur dioxide, apparently originating in coal-fired power stations and ore processing plants, which can be fatal for man and a very serious threat to the environment? Has it already taken up this problem and made suitable proposals?

11. Question by Mr JUNOT (H-560/82)

Subject: Change in the place of origin of officials of the Commission

Why, after more than four years, has the Commission still not responded to the applications made by some of its officials for their place of origin to be changed pursuant to the administrative rules it issued in April 1978, and can it assure Parliament that it will quickly settle the problem in accordance with the Staff Regulations and be seen to act like a fully responsible institution?

12. Question by Mr. MORELAND (H-561/82)

Subject: Football

Recent reports have indicated that Commissioner Richards has been taking an interest in the membership of football clubs on behalf of the Commission.

What role does the Commission believe the Community can play to improve the state of European football?

13. Question by Mrs LIZIN (H-571/82)

Subject: Television interview with Mr Davignon - Steel

In a television interview on Sunday, 21 November, Mr Davignon stated that three Members of the Commission, Mr Ortoli, Mr Andriessen and himself, were dealing with the steel problem.

Does not the Commission consider it odd that Mr Richard is not also one of the Members involved, since the social implications are a matter of urgency for regions in difficulty such as Wallonia?

14. Question by Mr BOCKLET (H-586/82)

Subject: Information seminar on a uniform electoral system

Is it true that an information seminar with experts on electoral law has been held at the instigation and/or with the participation of the Commission on the European Parliament's proposal for a uniform electoral system, and on what grounds did the Commission not see fit to invite the European Parliament, the rapporteur on the draft electoral law, in particular, or any other members concerned with this subject?

15. Question by Mr KAZAZIS (H-588/82)

Subject: Franco-Soviet agreement

Could the Commission inform the House of the terms of the Franco-Soviet agreement (signed by Mrs CRESSON, the French Minister of Agriculture) providing for exports of cereals and sugar to the Soviet Union and can it assure us that the terms of this agreement are not contrary to the Common Agricultural Policy or the rules on cargo-sharing laid down by UNCTAD, of which France is a member?

16. Question by Mr BONDE (H-355/82/rév.)

Subject: Budget guidelines

Can the Commission state which budget guidelines were put forward for Denmark during the ministerial meeting on 12 July 1982 and whether the proposed quantitative budget guidelines were drawn up in Brussels or in collaboration with Danish officials?

Before it put forward those guidelines, did the Commission solicit ideas from and hold talks with for instance the Danish Trades Union Congress, trade unions, pensioners' organizations, students' organizations etc?

17. Question by Mr DAVERN (H-414/82)

Subject : New Zealand's share of the U.K. butter market

Will the Commission explain its interpretation of Community preference in the butter market where E.E.C. figures show that while in 1975 Denmark and Ireland had 75% of the British market, in 1981 their share had sunk to 33% and the share of a non Member State, New Zealand, had risen from 25% to at least 30%?



18. Question by Mr GONDIKAS (H-421/82)

Subject: Filling A 2 and A 3 posts with Greek nationals

Can the Commission definitely state whether the five grade A 2 posts originally allocated to Greece have recently been reduced to four, and if so, why? And can Parliament confirm that, before the end of 1982, persons will be recruited and engaged for the A 2 posts of director and the grade A 3 posts allocated to Greece under the Derogatory System?

In addition, would the Commission inform Parliament whether it is true that the delays in the A 2 and A 3 appointments are due to pressure on the part of the present Greek Government, which would like its nominees from among the ranks of PASOK to be appointed instead of those preferred by the Commission and selected on the basis of strict criteria?

19. Question by Mr LALOR (H-433/82)

Subject : "Two-speed" Community

Will the Commission admit that it has begun talks on the possibility of developing a "two-speed" Community and state at whose request such talks have been initiated and how it intends to safeguard Ireland's position within the Community?

20. Question by Mrs CASTLE (H-570/82)

Subject : Milk productions

Will the Commission state what increase in milk production it anticipates in the current year and where and in what way it proposes to dispose of the excess?

21. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-467/82)

Subject: Replacement of the Head of the Commission delegation to Japan

Does the Commission consider that leaving the post of Head of the Commission delegation to Japan vacant for so long is good for the image of the Community in that country?

22. Question by Mr PESMAZOGLU (H-486/82)

Subject: Estimation of unemployment in the Member States of the Community

In some Member States many young people and women do not appear in employment office statistics nor is there any record of the unemployed or under-employed in agricultural areas.

Is the Commission aware of the shortcomings in statistical estimates of unemployment in some Member States of the Community and what measures does it intend to take to ensure accurate, comparable assessments of the number of unemployed in the States of the Community?

23. Question by Mr ROGALLA (H-508/82)

Subject: Measures to promote coal sales

What regulative, financial, legal or other measures has the Commission taken during the last five years in order to promote coal sales in the Member States?

24. Question by Mr HUTTON (H-522/82)

Subject : New Media

What steps are the Commission taking to make use of New Media techniques, in particular satellites, to promote the work of the European institutions?

25. Question by Mr MARSHALL (H-523/82)

Subject : Sugar

In its answer to my oral question 14th September 1982 (H-325/82) (1), the Commission states that it published a major survey of the world agricultural markets in 1976. Can the Commission state: The increase in Community output, as well as the extent to which Community surpluses have increased, relative to the world market, since that date and whether it has carried out a survey of the effect of high EEC sugar prices on sugar using industries in the EEC?

26. Question by Sir Fred WARNER (H-666/82) (x)

Subject : Motorcacle noise

Can the Commission say how it proposes to implement Article 8 of its Directive of 23 November 1978 on the permissible sound levels and exhaust systems of motorcycles without further disadvantaging the European Motorcycle Industry?

27. Question by Mr ADAM (H-551/82)

Subject: UK lamb exports to France

What progress has the Commission made in eliminating the border health checks which are delaying the entry of lamb into France from the UK?

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(1) Debates I-288 of 15.9.1982

(x) Former oral question without debate (0-117/82), converted into a question for question time

28. Question by Mr Basil de FERRANTI (H-565/82)

Subject : Raw material costs for the biotechnology industry

Is starch, glucose and sugar available in Europe at low enough prices to ensure the competitiveness of the biotechnology industry; this industry is small at present but is the Commission aware of how vital it will be for future employment?

29. Question by Mr HORD (H-659/82) (x)

Subject: The Franco-Russian Agricultural Trade Agreement

What agreements have recently been made between the Government of France and the Soviet Union for the sale of agricultural products?

What steps have the Commission taken to ensure that full information as to their agreements has been given to them?

What action is the Commission preparing to take to ensure that the provisions of the Treaties relating to trade agreements between a Member State and a third country are observed?

What is the estimated cost to Community funds if these agreements are implemented?

30. Question by Mrs SCRIVENER (H-579/82)

Subject: Lead in petrol

Can the Commission say whether the Community is carrying out research into the reduction of the lead content of petrol and whether it intends to draw up new regulations aimed at gradually promoting the production of lead-free petrol?

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(x) Former oral question without debate (O-125/82), converted into a question for Question Time

31. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-582/82)

Subject : Labeling of energy consuming machinery

What progress can the Commission report on the labelling of industrial and domestic energy consuming machinery and appliances to indicate energy consumption ?

32. Question by Mr HARRIS (H-587/82)

Subject : Flag of convenience

How many fishing boats from non-EEC countries have been re-registered in Member States over the last three years and so have gained access to Community waters and what action is the Commission now considering in conjunction with Member States to deal with this practice of "flag of convenience" fishing particularly by Spain, which has re-registered over 60 boats in the United Kingdom?

33. Question by Ms. QUIN (H-592/82)

Subject: E.E.C. Agricultural export restitutions

Which other countries in the world use the system of export restitutions to subsidize agricultural exports in the same way as the E.E.C. and how does the level of export restitutions of other countries (if these exist) compare with the average E.E.C. level for such products as cereals and dairy products?

34. Question by Mr. SCOTT-HOPKINS (H-593/82)

Subject: Barrage across the River Severn

Has the Commission at any stage over the last nine years received a request for financial aid towards the building of a barrage across the River Severn; if such a request were received, would the Commission view it favourably?

35. Question by Mr HAAGERUP (H-595/82)

Subject: Greenland's withdrawal from the Communities

Would the Commission please state what schedule it has drawn for considering Greenland's withdrawal from the Communities?

36. Question by Mr. PATTERSON (H-596/82)

Subject: National language used as a non-tariff barrier

Can the Commission categorically state that the insistence of the French Government that all documentation concerning goods coming from other EEC countries must be in the French language constitutes an illegal and unacceptable non-tariff barrier? In view of the fact that, if such a barrier is allowed to continue, every other EEC country could take similar steps, with catastrophic results for intra-Community trade, will the Commission give an assurance that legal proceedings against the French Government will be pressed at the highest degree of urgency?

37. Question by Mrs WIECZOREK-ZEUL (H-597/82)

Subject: East-West trade

Can the Commission indicate in which areas it intends to carry out studies relating to possible restrictions on East-West trade, and will these studies include the effects such restrictions would have on the volume of East-West trade and on the economic and employment situation in the undertakings concerned?

38. Question by Mr VANDEMEULEBROUCKE (H-602/82)

Subject: Restructuring of the petrochemical industry

At its annual meeting in October 1982, the European section of the Union of Chemical Industries requested the Commission to draw up rules on competition and to work out a restructuring plan for the petrochemical industry in order to eliminate production surpluses of over 40%.

Also according to the Union of Chemical Industries, current monthly losses total 200 million EUA.

Would the Commission state its views on this matter?

39. Question by Mr RADOUX (H-603/82)

Subject: Accession of Norway to the EEC

Considering the benefits which Denmark has derived from its membership of the European Communities, does the Commission not think that talks should be resumed with Norway, as sufficient time has now elapsed to enable that country to reconsider what accession to the EEC would represent in terms of its own and Scandinavian interests.

40. Question by Mr ADAMO<sup>U</sup> (H-605/82)

Subject : Imports of citrus fruit into Greece

The problem of imported citrus fruits (oranges, mandarins, etc) from EEC countries and countries with preferential relations with the EEC (Spain, Turkey, etc) has become particularly acute at a time when Greek farmers are anxiously seeking ways of disposing of their own crops of citrus fruits for this year and the prices for their products are consequently being depressed.

What immediate measures does the Commission intend taking to counteract the abovementioned imports and to bring about the timely disposal of this year's Greek crop of citrus fruits (last year thousands of tonnes had to be destroyed) by developing imports of the other nine EEC States and by facilitating development of our exports to the socialist countries, which are the traditional purchasers of Greek citrus fruits ?

41. Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-608/82)

Subject : The Cyprus question and the Commission's standpoint

In the daily bulletin put out by the Commission's Spokesman's Group, an interview with Mr Kenanan Atakol was published under the title 'The Federal State of Cyprus and the EEC', this representing an inadmissible cover-up of the plans for dividing Cyprus into two parts by Turkey, whose troops have occupied 40% of Cypriot territory.

Does the Commission categorically condemn these provocative actions which are repeated every so often to the detriment of the Republic of Cyprus, a country associated with the EEC, does it support the UN Resolutions on the Cyprus question and does it intend to take definite measures against those responsible for this political provocation ?

42. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-613/82)

Subject: The Greek pharmaceutical industry

The Commission, through its Commissioners NARJES and ANDRIESEN, has been interfering in Greece's economic affairs, namely in questions of regulation by law of pharmaceutical and insurance companies, seeking to nullify regulations in these sectors which, in the Commission's opinion, strengthen the public sector's role.

In the Commission's view, is the Greek Government the competent authority to formulate policy in Greece or is it the Commission?

43. Question by Mrs VON ALEMANN (H-618/82)

Subject: Nuclear power stations in border areas

When will the Commission be submitting a directive on nuclear power stations in border areas?



44. Question by Mr PRANCHERE (H-623/82)

Subject: Community rules on sheepmeat

Community rules on sheepmeat have had unfortunate repercussions for French sheep-rearers. Their income has stagnated and the opportunities for development are very limited. In its motion for a resolution on agricultural prices adopted at the November part-session (Doc. 1-837/82) the European Parliament called for the strengthening of 'the measures designed to encourage sheep-rearing and to improve Community rules'.

Has the Commission decided to heed this demand, firstly by proposing specific measures to encourage sheep-rearing when agricultural prices for 1983/1984 are fixed and secondly by submitting in the near future a revision of the Community rules?

45. Question by Mr CHAMBEIRON (H-624/82)

Subject: Statement by Mr NATALI on a common defence policy for the Community

It is reported in the press that on 6 December Vice-President Natali made a public statement in Paris to the effect that the Community should institute a common defence policy.

Can the Commission confirm this statement and, if so, can it say whether a statement of this sort can be reconciled with the fact that the Community has no military powers under the Treaty, the Commission being moreover the 'guardian' of the Treaty, or with the obligation to maintain discretion incumbent upon a representative of the Commission when he is not speaking in his official capacity?

46. Question by Mr. RYAN (H-637/82)

Subject: Taxes on Inter-Community Travel

Does the Commission approve of the imposition of national taxes on travellers engaged on journeys within the European Community such as the Irish tax on journeys abroad originating in Ireland and the Belgian Airport tax, which taxes appear to infringe the right of free travel within the Community, and if the Commission disapproves, what action will the Commission take to prevent the collection of such taxes?

47. Question by Mr REMILLY (H-638/82)

Subject: Trade meetings with the United States

Following the GATT Council, which demonstrated the Community's cohesion, can the Commission describe the content of the discussions with the American delegation in Brussels on 10 December and say whether any commitments were made by either side?

48. Question by Mr DELEAU (H-641/82)

Subject: Bilateral negotiations in the textile sector

Can the Commission report on the bilateral negotiations on textiles; are the agreements with all the exporting countries satisfactory and do they allow the Community's continued membership of the Multifibre Arrangement?

49. Question by Lord BETHELL (H-648/82)

Subject : Landing cards for nationals of other Member States

In view of the welcome decision by certain EC Governments, most recently the French Government in December 1982, to abolish the requirement for landing cards for nationals of other Member States, will the Commission urge the Italian and Greek Governments also to abolish this requirement?

50. Question by Mr COTTRELL (H-652/82)

Subject : Contacts between the Community and the Turkish Cypriot administered area of Cyprus

Will the Commission describe the present position with regard to contacts between the Community and the authorities in the Turkish Cypriot administered area of Cyprus?

51. Question by Mr DALZIEL (H-655/82)

Subject : Aid to Ethiopia

Will the Commission indicate how much Community aid has been given to Ethiopia under the relevant provisions of the Lomé Convention and, further, whether the concern about human rights in Ethiopia has or will have any effect on such aid?

52. Question by Mrs POIRIER (H-656/82)

Subject : Relations between the EEC and South Africa

Can the Commission confirm the existence of a Communication to the Council of 15.11.1982 concerning negotiations with South Africa within the context of Article XXVIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and, if so, can it explain the reasons for and contents of this agreement, even though the international community should be aiming to isolate South Africa in view of the system of apartheid prevailing there and in implementation of the UN resolutions. Can the Commission indicate the actual state of negotiations between the EEC and South Africa ?

53. Question by Mr NORMANTON (H-657/82)

Subject : Forestry in the ACP States

Recalling the report by Mr Seligman on biomass for energy and the ecological benefit of trees, what steps is the Commission taking to encourage forestry in the developing countries?

54. Question by Mr DENIAU (H-660/82)

Subject : Growth of inter-German trade and repercussions on trade within the Community

In view of the increase in trade between West Germany and Eastern Germany, which is subject to an exemption system intended to favour exclusively inter-German trade, can the Commission indicate whether there exist at present cases of fraud with regard to the origin of goods and "deflected trade"; are not certain products in fact from other COMECON countries and is there not a tendency to re-export in the Community products from Eastern Germany ?

55. Question by Mr GRIFFITHS (H-663/82)

Subject : E.R.D.F. grants

Will the Commission detail how each national government's tax laws affect E.R.D.F. grants made to companies in private and public sector ?

56. Question by Mr LOMAS (H-665/82)

Subject : Regional Fund - Non Quota Section

The Non Quota Section of the Regional Fund is being used to assist areas affected by industrial change including parts of the U.K. Areas of London, particularly in my constituency in the East End and in the constituency of Richard BALFE in South London, have been badly affected by such changes with unemployment in some areas as high as 30 %. Can the Commission give the people in those areas any hope that funds might be made available to help create badly needed jobs?

57. Question by Mr MARTIN (H-447/82)

Subject: Taxes on wine

Does the Council intend to harmonize excise duties on wine as it has frequently been asked to do by the European Parliament, most recently in the resolution on the market in wine it adopted in July 1982?

58. Question by Mr PRANCHERE (H-505/82)

Subject: Long-term multiannual agricultural supply agreements

Talks have been opened between the Community and certain countries (Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt) on the conclusion of long-term agreements on agricultural products. In the absence of a Council decision, these countries are liable to turn to other exporting countries prepared to conclude multiannual contracts.

Is the Council aware of this situation and will it now implement long-term multiannual supply contracts in agricultural products in common with such major exporting countries as Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States?

59. Question by Mr Konrad SCHÖN (H-545/82)

Subject: Intensified border controls at internal Community borders

On 12 November 1982, a day after the arrest of two leading German terrorists, checks on persons entering and leaving the country were intensified at German frontier points. As a result, drivers could expect to have to wait for over two hours. Mile-long tailbacks stretched back into the towns, inconveniencing, and even endangering, ordinary citizens.

Does the Council share the German authorities' patent belief that terrorists wishing to cross the border from one Member State to another spend hours in traffic jams obediently awaiting their turn at customs control?

60. Question by Mrs SQUARCIALUPI (H-645/82) (x)

Subject: The Council's absence from the joint debate of  
11 and 12 October in Strasbourg on the problems  
relating to unemployment

Can the Council give the reasons for its absence from the  
debate on the various documents relating to the Jumbo  
Council and, more generally, on unemployment, which is  
the most serious problem facing the European Community?

61. Question by Mr LALOR (H-481/82)

Subject : EEC aid for Belfast housing

Will the Council state whether or not it has succeeded in raising  
the urgent matter of providing Community aid for housing schemes in  
Belfast at Council level, a subject which I raised during the  
last September session and one which is of considerable importance  
to the people of Belfast?

62. Question by Mr FLANAGAN (H-531/82)

Subject : Dumping of wastes at sea

Will the Council give due reason as to why it has been unable to  
adopt proposal for a directive COM (75)688 final concerning the dumping  
of wastes at sea, particularly in view of reported increases in  
such activities around the Irish coasts?

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(x) Former oral question without debate (0-97/82), converted into  
a question for Question Time

63. Question by Mrs Beate WEBER (H-621/82) (x)

Subject: Transport of 2 tonnes of toxic waste (dioxin) from Seveso (Italy) to another European country

1. Did (or does) the Council know about the transport of two tonnes of highly toxic waste (dioxin) from Seveso (Italy) to another European country?
2. Does the Council know to which Community or other country the toxic waste was transported?
3. Does the Council know whether this toxic waste is being stored in such a way that it no longer poses any threat to human beings or the environment?
4. Can the Council state with certainty that the toxic waste was not dumped at sea?
5. When does the Council intend to finally approve the guidelines contained in Doc. COM/75/688 ('Concerning the dumping of wastes at sea'), which were submitted to it on 19.11.1976?

64. Question by Mr HABSBURG (H-575/82)

Subject: Yugoslav border controls

Does the Council agree that the special tax on Yugoslav nationals travelling abroad is a restriction on their freedom of movement and is therefore incompatible with the Helsinki Protocols and is the Council prepared, within the framework of the negotiations with Yugoslavia on economic and financial issues, to induce the Yugoslav government to desist from this measure which is extremely damaging to neighbouring countries and, moreover, infringes the rights of Yugoslav citizens?

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(x) Former oral question without debate (0-112/82), converted into a question for Question Time

65. Question by Mr TYRRELL (H-591/82)

Subject: Second directive on motor insurance

Is the Council aware that the second directive on insurance against civil liability in regard to the use of motor vehicles has been awaiting implementation since the Parliament's adoption of the Jecchino report in October 1981; can the Council state when implementation is envisaged, and why there has been such delay in removing so manifest a restriction to the free movement of persons within the European Community?

66. Question by Mrs WIECZOREK-ZEUL (H-599/82)

Subject: East-West trade

Have the USA and the EEC Member States agreed on restrictions in the field of East-West trade which are connected with the lifting of the US pipeline embargo and, if so, is the Council's position a united one? What is the situation with regard to credit restrictions and are any EEC measures envisaged in this field?

67. Question by Mr ANTONIOZZI (H-600/82)

Subject: Protection of tourists engaged in international travel

Does the Council intend to support the proposals put forward by the Commission concerning tourism and, in particular, does it intend to adopt common rules for the protection of tourists engaged in international travel in view of the numerous serious incidents in various parts of the world, including the recent episode in which two Italian tourists in Bulgaria were deprived of their freedom, and of the fact that the free movement of tourists promotes understanding between peoples, brings nations together at a human level, encourages détente, prompts exchanges and strengthens cultural ties and that the Helsinki Charter, whose signatories include Bulgaria and the ten European Community countries, also requires respect for these freedoms as part of the wider framework of human rights?



68. Question by Mr LAGAKOS (H-601/83)

Subject: Secret agreement between France and the USSR

According to reports in the international press, a secret agreement has recently been concluded between France and the USSR to trade agricultural produce between the two countries using exclusively French and Soviet merchant shipping. This agreement is in flagrant violation of Community rules on competition and is contrary to the principles of free maritime commerce as laid down by the OECD.

Does not the Council think that a policy of this kind could create a precedent detrimental to the principles of free trade and what measures does it intend to take to ensure that the rules of competition are respected and to protect the other Member States' interests, which are suffering prejudice as a result of the Franco-Soviet agreement.

69. Question by Mr ADAMO (H-606/82)

Subject : Subsidization of Community butter in the EEC

During the Christmas period 1,500 tonnes of EEC butter will have been imported into Greece at a special reduced price, a quantity roughly equivalent to 1/4 of Greek production, one of the results being that major problems have arisen as regards the disposal of Greek produce and Greek dairy farmers have been seriously affected.

Could the Council state why the Greek market was not subsidized solely for butter of Greek origin irrespective of its packaging, which would have benefited the consumers and helped local production?

70.

Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-609/82)

Subject: Lemon imports into Greece

The large-scale importation onto the Greek market of lemons from Spain, Turkey and even Uruguay, channelled via the Federal Republic of Germany, is having dangerous repercussions on domestic production, while, at the same time, the general obstacles erected by the EEC to the development of commercial relations with the Socialist countries are creating problems for the disposal of lemons on that traditional market.

In view of the Commission's lack of interest in the fate of lemons and, more generally, citrus fruits produced in Greece, does the Council intend taking any immediate measures and, if so, what measures to protect and support Greek production?

71.

Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-612/82)

Subject: The Commission and application of the automatic cost-of-living adjustment mechanism in Greece

In its document on the 'Economic Situation in 1982 and Economic Policy Guidelines for 1983' the Commission directly interferes in Greece's incomes policy, claiming that in 1983 Greece will have to slow down considerably its cost-of-living adjustments and, in particular, efforts to restrain the rise in incomes will have to be continued while pursuing application of the automatic cost-of-living adjustment mechanism that will avert dangers.

Seeing that similar EEC interference led to the abandonment of this mechanism in Belgium and to its adulteration in the Netherlands, Denmark and Italy, could the Council state whether and why it adopts the Commission's inadmissible interference in adulterating today and abandoning tomorrow application of the automatic cost-of-living adjustment mechanism in Greece, and, more generally, whether the economic policy guidelines for Greece met with the unanimous approval of the Council of Ministers?

72. Question by Mrs VON ALEMANN (H-619/82)

Subject: Environmental policy during the German Presidency

What does the German President-in-Office intend to do to solve the environmental problems which arise or could arise in connection with nuclear power stations in border areas?

73. Question by Mrs POIRIER (H-625/82)

Subject: Problems relating to Spanish Fishermen

French fishing boats off the Atlantic coast have recently been subject to severe harassment from Spanish vessels some of which were under British licence.

Has this matter been referred to the Council and has it decided to take action over the above offences and to remedy swiftly this situation which is harmful to French fishing interests?

74. Question by Mr. SCOTT-HOPKINS (H-626/82)

Subject: Recent GATT meeting in Geneva

In the light of the recent GATT meeting in Geneva, how does the Council of Ministers intend to reinforce the commitment of the Ten towards freer trade in world markets?

75. Question by Mr FELLERMAIER (H-634/82)

Subject: Situation in Turkey

Will the President of the Council state the Council's attitude on the application of the EEC/Turkey Association Agreement since the referendum of 7 November 1982 and whether and to what extent the adoption of the draft constitution represents a first step by Turkey towards a return to democracy?

76. Question by Mr REMILLY (H-639/82)

Subject: Common fisheries policy

Will the Council report on the agreements concluded on 21 December 1982 concerning the common fisheries policy?

77. Question by Mr DELEAU (H-640/82)

Subject: Imbalance in trade with Japan

In view of the fact that the Council has decided that it is necessary to press ahead and make certain adjustments to relations with Japan, what practical measures does it intend to take to remedy the present imbalance?

78. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-642/82)

Subject: Spain's entry into the Common Market

In view of the fact that the new Spanish government has recently spoken of normal and reasonable time-limits for Spain's entry into the Common Market, can the Council indicate the present timetable for negotiations and say whether 1 January 1984 still holds good as a target date for the different parties?

79. Question by Lord BETHELL (H-649/82)

Subject: Landing cards for nationals of other Member States

In view of the welcome decision by most EC-governments, most recently the French government in December 1982, to abolish the landing card requirement for nationals of other member states entering their territory, will the Council consider this matter and agree that the Italian and Greek governments should also abolish this requirement?

80. Question by Miss HOOPER (H-650/82)

Subject: Paper recycling

In view of the unanimous support by this Parliament for the Recommendation on Paper Recycling sent to Member Governments and Community Institutions in 1981, would the Council indicate both the percentage of increased use and the actual amount of recycled paper used in:

- a) its publications
- b) its internal documentation
- c) its paper for photocopying?

81. Question by Mr JOHNSON (H-651/82)

Subject: Seals

In view of the Council's failure to achieve agreement on the Commission's proposal for a regulation to bar the importation into the Community of products coming from young harp and hooded seals, will the Council undertake to return to this item as a matter of urgency and in any case in time to allow the draft regulation to be adopted before the beginning of the next seal-hunt in March 1983?

82. Question by Mr COTTRELL (H-653/82)

Subject: EEC/Cyprus

Will the Council state whether it is satisfied with the operation of the current EEC/Cyprus agreement in all respects, and if not, which aspect causes it concern?

83. Question by Mr DENIAU (H-661/82)

Subject: Development of inner-German trade and impact on intra-Community trade

Given the increase in trade between West Germany and East Germany, which is carried out under an exemption system designed to benefit inner-German trade alone, does the Council intend to take measures to stamp out fraudulent practices concerning the origin of goods and the deflection of trade which is disturbing the Community market?

84. Question by Mr LOMAS (H-664/82)

Subject : Collusion - Conservative party and the EEC Commission

In December, the British Conservative Party had a broadcast on T.V. in which they attacked the policy of the Labour Party for withdrawal from the EEC and produced propaganda in favour of continued membership. The following day the Commission started a series of press conferences in Britain on the same theme. It is commonly believed in Britain that this could not have been a coincidence and that there was collusion between the Commission and the Conservative Party in order to denigrate the policy of the Labour Party which is supported by a large majority of the British people.

Does the Council accept the right of the Commission to interfere this way in the internal politics of a country and does it accept the right of the Commission to liaise with one political party against another ?

85. Question by Mr GALLAND (H-400/82)

Subject: Employment of prisoners in the construction of the trans-Siberian  
gas pipeline

As in August it was learned in Europe that the workers employed in the construction of the trans-Siberian gas pipeline were common law prisoners and political detainees, have the Ministers decided, as the French Government has, to inquire into this matter?

86. Question by Mrs LIZIN (H-527/82)

Subject: Discovery of mass graves in Argentina

Have the Foreign Ministers considered making a specific request to the Argentinian Government, in connection with the appalling discoveries of mass graves in several Argentinian towns, that a committee of inquiry be set up to establish where responsibility lies?

87. Question by Mrs SOSERUP (H-536/82)

Subject: Foreign Ministers' cooperation with the Commission within the EPC  
framework

The Commission states in its 15th General Report that 'in future the Commission will be fully involved in political cooperation at all levels'. (Commission of the European Communities: 15th General Report on the Activities of the European Communities 1981, p. 286).

Does the Foreign Minister agree with his predecessor, Kjeld Olesen, that this implies only that the Commission holds a permanent observer post in EPC co-operation or is the Foreign Minister of the opinion that this implies that the Commission takes part on an equal footing with the ten participating countries?

88. Question by Mr BERKHOUWER (H-581/82)

Subject: French arms supplies to Argentina

Are the Ministers aware of the fact that for some time now France has again been delivering arms to the totalitarian regime in Argentina including the notorious Exocet missile used to sink two British ships during the Falklands war and do they not think it deplorable that, as a result of France's decision to resume arms supplies, the united front hitherto maintained by the 10 in the matter of delivery of weapons to Argentina has been broken unilaterally and without consultation by one of the Member States?

89. Question by Mrs EWING (H-295/82)

Subject : UN General Assembly votes on apartheid

Given the Community's frequently declared opposition to apartheid, why have only two Member States consistently supported this stance throughout the 1979 and 1980 UN General Assembly votes on South Africa?

90. Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-584/82)

Subject: Acceptance of Laotian refugees

In its resolution on Laos of 14 October 1982 and at the third meeting with the interparliamentary delegation from the ASEAN countries on 17 and 18 November in Strasbourg, the European Parliament stressed the need for a speedy solution to the acute problem of the South-East Asian refugees in camps in Thailand. Do the Ten intend to take any further measures to increase and expedite the acceptance of refugees from Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam in the Community countries on a permanent basis, particularly when this reunites families?



1. Question by Mr DIDO (H-620/82)

Subject: Measures to combat international terrorist connections

In view of the serious facts coming to light in Italy as a result of investigations being carried out into the attempted assassination of the Pope and international terrorist connections, would the Foreign Ministers consider making a statement and possibly taking steps to combat those who resort to criminal methods as a means of waging political battles on bringing political influence to bear, with the aim of destabilizing the free democracies? Do the Foreign Ministers consider, moreover, that such actions are a grave threat to world peace?

2. Question by Mr. SCOTT-HOPKINS (H-594/82)

Subject: Relations E.E.C.-U.S.A.

When next does the President of the Council of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs intend to meet the President of the United States of America?

3. Question by Mrs WIECZOREK-ZEUL (H-598/82)

Subject: Restrictions on East-West trade

Do the possible restrictions on East-West trade concern the Cocom list of security-sensitive products and the products which would be excluded from such trade? If not, to what could the restrictions otherwise relate?

94.

Question by Mr ADAMOU (H-607/82)

Subject : The TEN and US policy in Central America

Recently the EEC has been taking a series of economic and political initiatives in Central America.

What has been the attitude of the Foreign Ministers to the repeated provocations and threats of military intervention by Honduras - which has relations with the EEC - against Nicaragua, and to the open support given by the Reagan Administration to the sanguinary juntas of Central America, which the US President himself described as 'democratic regimes' on his recent visit ?

95.

Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-610/82)

Subject: The Cyprus question and the recent European Council in Copenhagen

Once again the European Council has in its communique demonstratively omitted to mention the critical problem of Cyprus, even though a proposal was made on the subject by the Greek Government and even though 40% of Cypriot territory continues to undergo military occupation by Turkish NATO troops.

Could the Foreign Ministers state why the EEC continues to cover up the occupation by troops from Turkey, a country associated with the EEC, and thus undermines the application of the UN Resolutions on the independence, sovereignty and demilitarization of Cyprus?

96.

Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-611/82)

Subject: Installation of new MX intercontinental missiles

The communique issued by the European Council in Copenhagen, while mentioning the EEC's views on the major international issues, passes over in silence the USA's provocations against world peace with its programmes for constructing MX intercontinental missiles, which infringe the SALT 1 and SALT 2 Treaties, and the installation of Pershing and Cruise missiles.

Could the Foreign Ministers state why the TEN do not mention the fundamental problems for international peace created by the USA's policy, why they go along with the USA's aggressive cold-war policy (since most of the Governments of the TEN adopted the American projects at the NATO meeting of Defence Ministers held a few days ago in Brussels) and why they demonstratively ignore the requests of the mass European movement for disarmament?

97.

Question by Mr ANTONIOZZI (H-614/82)

Subject: Conclusions reached at the meeting of the European Council  
in Copenhagen at the beginning of December 1982

Alarming reports are currently circulating about the economic situation, unemployment, trade relations with the USA, security problems, East-West and North-South political relations and institutional development which is the fundamental instrument of European progress.

What prospects are open to Europe following the meeting in Copenhagen?

98. Question by Mr. PEARCE (H-616/82)

Subject: South Africa

What steps have the Ministers taken to study the course of constitutional development being undertaken in South Africa, with the stated aim of enabling all national groups to participate in decision-making as regards common issues, through inter alia; the formation of a new Ministry responsible for constitutional development, headed by a minister of cabinet rank; commitments to reform strong enough to cause two ministers and eighteen other MPs to leave the government party in protest; the announcement of proposals for a "confederation" and for consultations with various groups to establish it; and do Ministers agree that the economic and strategic importance of South Africa to the European Community requires them to support these developments as part of a gradual process of reform in South Africa?

99. Question by Mr PLASKOVITIS (H-627/82) (x)

Subject: Situation in Turkey

What is the Council's attitude to the ban on future political activities by former democratic politicians contained in the Draft constitution adopted on 7 November 1982?

100. Question by Mr PLASKOVITIS (H-628/82)

Subject: Situation in Turkey

What is the Foreign Ministers' position with regard to the exclusion of previous active democratic politicians from engaging in political activity in future under the draft constitution adopted on 7 November 1982?

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(x) Initially addressed to the Council but transferred to the Competence of the Foreign Ministers Meeting in Political Cooperation

101. Question by Mrs GREDAL (H-629/82)

Subject: Situation in Turkey

What is the attitude of the Foreign Ministers towards the action taken by France, the Netherlands, Denmark, Norway and Sweden to bring Turkey before the European Court of Human Rights?

102. Question by Mr HÄNSCH (H-630/82) (x)

Subject: Situation in Turkey

Will the President of the Council state what information the Council has on allegations of torture in Turkish prisons, what credibility he attaches to such allegations and whether he believes that there are adequate safeguards and respect for human rights in Turkey?

103. Question by Mr HÄNSCH (H-631/82)

Subject: Situation in Turkey

Would the Foreign Ministers state what information they have with regard to allegations of torture in Turkish jails, how they regard such allegations, and whether they consider that human rights are being adequately protected and respected in Turkey?

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(x) Initially addressed to the Council but transferred to the Competence of the Foreign Ministers Meeting in Political Cooperation

104. Question by Mr FICH (H-632/82) (x)

Subject: Situation in Turkey

Will the President of the Council state the opinion of the Council on the new Turkish constitution with particular reference to the principle of the separation of powers, basic rights and freedoms, freedom of action for political parties and trade unions and complete freedom of the press - especially following the most recent bans on daily newspapers and intimidation of journalists?

105. Question by Mr FICH (H-633/82)

Subject: Situation in Turkey

Would the Foreign Ministers state their views on the new Turkish constitution, with particular reference to the principle of the separation of powers, to fundamental and democratic rights, to the rights of political parties and trade unions to engage freely in their respective activities, and to constitutional guarantees to ensure the complete freedom of the press - particularly after the latest bans on newspapers and attempts to intimidate journalists?

106. Question by Mr HUTTON (H-654/82)

Subject: Council discussions on Genscher/Colombo Act

Will the Ministers give Parliament the time-table for its discussion on the Genscher/Colombo Act, and particularly on those sections which "reaffirm the central importance of the European Parliament in the development of European Union<sup>1</sup>", and when will the Ministers reach a decision on the Genscher/Colombo Act?

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(x) Initially addressed to the Council but transferred to the Competence of the Foreign Ministers Meeting in Political Cooperation

(1) Bulletin of the Communities, No. 11-1981, point 3.4.1., part. II, para. 3